



I

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956

together with the

REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett.

Members:

Councillor T.R. Mott, M.B.E., C.C. (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor S. Bidwell.  
Councillor R.V.C. Brown.  
Councillor Miss A.K. Gaze.  
Councillor L.J. King.  
Councillor I. Kinloch.  
Councillor Mrs. J.R. Last.  
Councillor Mrs. J.M. Lyon.  
Councillor W.A. Marsh (ex-officio)  
Councillor A.E. Moss, J.P.  
Councillor S.E. Smith, J.P. Chairman of the Council  
(ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

E.H.C. Wadhams, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. Stedman, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

G.S. Gounder (to July 1966)

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. F.A. Rowley, Secretary-Shorthand/Typist (to September 1966)  
Miss S.A. Scopes, Secretary-Shorthand/Typist (from September 1966)  
Miss N.F. Shelley, Junior Clerical Assistant (from September 1966)

Part-time General Assistant:

A.W. Jay.

Refuse/Sewage Disposal Manager:

T.C. Thorpe.

Assistant Manager:

H.A. Diaper (from October 1966)



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Public Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Braintree.

November, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of  
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Witham Urban District.

The report contains the usual statistics as required by the Ministry of Health and certain figures with regard to the work done at the various County Council clinics in the district. For the latter I am indebted to Dr. Miller Wood.

The greater part of the report is an account of the work done under the general direction of your Committee throughout the year.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's estimated population is 10,880, an increase of 214 on 1965 and is 2,040 more than in 1956.

The total number of births recorded was slightly down on the previous year, 192 against 223 as was the corrected birth rate of 19.0 per 1,000 estimated population compared with 22.6 for 1965.

The birth rate however is still higher than the average for England and Wales which is 17.7.

There were 110 deaths giving a corrected death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 estimated population, which is below the figure for England and Wales 11.7.

There were no infant deaths, a most satisfactory figure. In this connection the last nil return was in 1958.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

A total of 162 were notified the great majority 155 being measles. One case of food poisoning was reported but none of dysentery or poliomyelitis. It is interesting to recall that it is 10 years since we started vaccinating against poliomyelitis and that the last time this disease was notified in Witham was in 1958 when 2 paralytic and 2 non-paralytic cases were reported.



## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

As usual these services were carried on by the family doctors and at the Clinics. The details of the work done will be found later in this report. Again it is interesting to look back to 1956 and find that in that year 39 Witham children received the full course of 2 injections. Today the full course is 3 doses of vaccine on a lump of sugar followed by a 4th at school entry age and you will see that 224 children received the full primary course and 159 had the 4th or booster dose.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

My pocket English dictionary defines environment as "conditions of life and growth". This is an apt heading for the second part of this report. Here you will read of all the services, i.e. water, housing, cleansing and sewage disposal that mean so much to the life of your town. You will read too a great deal about growth because your town is growing and the growth is accelerating.

It is not my intention to go over in detail the ground so adequately covered by your Chief Public Health Inspector but to content myself with a few general remarks.

The water supply is pure and generally adequate, the sewerage and sewage disposal system functions well and are being improved and augmented to meet the greater needs of the new Witham. Many more houses have been built but the number on the housing waiting list is still sizeable. On refuse disposal it is interesting to note that the introduction of the paper sack system is proving satisfactory.

It is good to know that the families who have moved from London are happy in their new homes.

May I repeat here what I wrote in my 1964 report - "I trust that due thought will be given to the provision or at least the encouragement of additional sports facilities and social clubs to cater for the increased population."

I know this has not been forgotten, I refer to it again because I think it is so important.

In conclusion I must thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and Mr. Tiddens and his staff and indeed all my colleagues in the Council for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Collingwood Road,  
Witham, Essex.

November, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of  
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of my department's work during the year 1966.

The first stages in the expansion of the town of Witham to three times its original size, as provided in the town development programme, were completed or making good progress by the end of the year. A new industrial estate had been laid out; a major trunk sewer system to serve the new Witham was completed and the first of the new Witham families from London were settled in their new homes. In all respects the tempo of development throughout the district was increasing. The contract for the extended Witham sewage works was started in the autumn and considerable progress had been made by the end of the year despite inclement weather. Reorganisation of the refuse collection service established in 1965 had proved its worth in 1966, and the first stage in the conversion to the paper sack system of refuse storage was in hand. New factories were coming into operation and a queue of industrialists were negotiating with the Council for factory sites and houses for their workers. In the field of housing, apart from the houses for London "overspill" families, the Council had completed one further housing estate and a warden type house for elderly and infirm people. A start had been made on the private re-development of a large section of the town shopping centre, and the Council's plans for the modernisation of the town centre as a whole had been drafted for consideration by the authorities concerned. The question of a necessary new road pattern for the town was under discussion and arrangements were being finalised with the County Council for inclusion in the programme of the necessary educational and health centre facilities. The town had already been relieved of much of its traffic burden by the completion of the A 12 by-pass.

Viewed in such a setting the public health services of the district are more clearly perceived as necessary factors in the overall pattern of community development rather than as isolated services established for single purposes, and not the least of the interest in working in conditions of this kind is the restrained excitement of taking part in what will amount to the creation of a new town. New town though it necessarily will be, it is good to know that all those now working towards its completion are conscious of the need to retain as much as possible of the character of Witham as it has been hitherto.

The needs of the town development scheme have not been allowed to detract from the normal routine environmental health work in housing, food hygiene, clean air, water supply and pest control, and details of their services will be found in the following pages. My thanks are due to the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. F. Bowker, for data in respect of services operated by his department

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council and the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support. I wish also to acknowledge the ready assistance at all times of the Clerk of the Council and the other officers, and the loyalty and hard work of my own staff both in the office and in the sewage and the refuse services.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	7,329
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	10,880
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	3,936
Rateable value	...	...	...	£488,573
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£2,200

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	184	91	93
Illegitimate	8	3	5

Total live births - 192

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	17.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		...	4.2
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.08		...	19.0
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population		...	17.7

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	20.4
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	15.4
Total live and still births - 196			

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Total infant deaths - Nil.

# INFANT MORTALITY

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	Nil.
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	Nil.
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil.
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	Nil.
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	Nil.
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	Nil.
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births			19.0

# MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	Nil.

# DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	110	66	44	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	10.1
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.01			...	10.2
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales			...	11.7

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1966

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	6	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	9	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	6	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	13	11
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	-	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	4	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	4	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	6	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-
All Causes					66	44

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

			<u>Attendances</u>
Child Welfare	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m.	1,645
School Clinic	1st & 3rd Thursdays	9 a.m.	428
Dental	2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays and every Friday	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	806
Speech Therapy	Every Monday (From September 1966)	(By Appt.)	84

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st Friday	2 p.m.	441
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RIVENHALL Church Hall.

Child Welfare	3rd Monday	2 p.m.	171
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(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

(i) Chest Clinics. Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every 4th Tuesday morning.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-
Measles	155	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	2	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Totals	162	2	-



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ersipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	155	-	-	-	4	34	54	43	3	-	16	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	162	-	-	1	4	36	57	44	3	-	16	-	1

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages										Under 1 year	
	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 & over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	155	12	18	14	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	162	1	12	16	84	-	-	-	-	1	1	6

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Primary Courses	By General Practitioners	By County Staff	Totals
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	187	26	213
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	17	18
Diphtheria	-	5	5
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	1	77	78
Poliomyelitis	183	41	224
Smallpox	131	-	131
B.C.G.	-	-	-
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	16	3	19
Diphtheria and Tetanus	15	92	107
Diphtheria	1	116	117
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	12	117	129
Poliomyelitis	8	151	159
Smallpox	9	-	9

## HOUSING

A total of 258 new dwellings were completed in the urban district during the year. Of these, 213 were provided by the Council, a welcome improvement on 1965 when no U.D.C. dwellings were built. On the other hand the 45 completed private enterprise houses represents less than half the number similarly built during 1965, and reflects the influence of the national economic position on house purchase by mortgage.

The 213 units built by the Council comprised 120 houses for "overspill" tenants, a warden type flatlet home of 30 units, and 63 houses for normal local needs. The first overspill estate (now named "Templars") will provide homes for 440 families and will be completed during 1967. Arrangements for the second (Phases IIa and IIb) and third (Phase III) estates were in hand at the end of 1966. The 120 families so far received under the agreement with the Greater London Council have settled in very well, in spite of very adverse weather and site conditions during the latter part of the year.

The number of dwellings erected in the urban district since 1945 is as follows:-

By Local Authority:	1021 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows and 77 Houses for Sale)
By Private Enterprise:	767

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1966 was 192 compared with 195 at the end of 1965. The lists were composed of the following categories at 31st December, 1966:-

Ordinary list	-	61
Exchange list	-	1
Old Persons Bungalows	-	38
Bungalow exchange list	-	33
Single Person Units	-	10
Engaged Couples list	-	41
River View Hostel	-	8

There is now only one main waiting list, the qualification for admission to which is two years' residence or work in the urban district. The Council has renewed its agreement with the Essex County Council, to assist in the rehousing of homeless families so far as is consistent with the urban district's own needs.

### Pre-War Council Houses

All the older (pre-1930) Council houses had been modernised by the end of 1963. No further improvement schemes have been undertaken but it is hoped that proposals for dealing with 186 other pre-war houses will be submitted during 1967-1968.



## Housing and Public Health Acts

With regard to sub-standard private houses the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

(a) Clearance Orders:	Orders submitted	Nil
	Orders confirmed	Nil
	Houses vacated	5
	Houses demolished	1
(b) Demolition Orders:	Orders made	1
	Houses vacated	2
	Houses demolished	-
(c) Closing Orders:	Orders made	2
(d) Voluntary Undertakings by owners:	Houses demolished	Nil
	Houses not re-occupied	2
(e) Rehousing by Local Authority:	Families rehoused	7

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition:	Occupied	2
	Vacant	11
Houses subject to Demolition Orders:	Vacant	2
Houses subject to Closing Orders:	Vacant	3
Parts of Houses subject to Closing Orders:	Vacant	10
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:		7

Of the 63 dwellings scheduled in the 1965-1968 programme as suitable for clearance or closure, 32 have already been dealt with.

## Housing Acts 1949-1964 Improvement Grants

During the year a further 19 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant are as follows:-

	<u>1949-59</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Submitted	28	7	-	1	2	9	-	-
Granted	26	7	-	-	2	9	-	-
Refused	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Withdrawn	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Schemes completed	25	-	5	-	-	5	3	2

There were no schemes outstanding at the end of 1966.

Details of applications received for Standard Grants since their inception in 1959 are as follows:-

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Submitted	6	12	22	11	6	17	25	19
Granted	6	12	22	11	6	17	25	19
Withdrawn	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Schemes completed	-	11	13	21	9	7	18	12
Outstanding at 31 Dec.	6	6	15	5	2	10	17	24

#### Rent Act 1957

##### Certificates of Disrepair

Advice was given to a number of tenants and landlords, but no applications for certificates were received.

#### Housing Act 1961

##### Houses in Multiple Occupation

No action was taken under this heading during the year, there being very few houses of this type in the area.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1966:-

##### Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

(a)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	46
(b)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	5
(c)	Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	32

##### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

(a)	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) .....	25
(b)	Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) .....	37

#### Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-64

##### Public Health Acts 1936-61:

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	4
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice .....	4

### WATER SUPPLY

The supply position remains as in previous years, the Council supplementing its own Bradwell Spring source by water purchased from the South Essex Water Company, whose trunk main from Abberton skirts the urban district. The proposal for the Council to transfer its undertaking to this Company, previously referred to, is in abeyance.

The quality of both supplies is consistently satisfactory, as shown by frequent analysis. Pressure generally is adequate throughout the district. Further increasing demand and town development requirements are to be met by the provision of a new large capacity high level reservoir.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Mains Water</u>			
Chemical	13	-	13
Bacteriological	18	5	23
<u>Other Supplies</u>			
Bacteriological	13	11	24

The unsatisfactory mains water samples were taken from the drinking fountains at a local factory and also from the standpipe off a new main laid to a new local factory. The other unsatisfactory results were in respect of three private supplies. None of these was grossly polluted. One was restored to satisfactory quality by flushing and adjustment of the chlorinator plant, and another (a ram supply) improved upon attention being given to maintenance of the spring collection area. Negotiation with regard to the third supply was still in progress at the end of the year.

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

#### Bradwell Springs Supply (19.5.66)

"The water is very hard in character but otherwise contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and is also of very satisfactory bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

#### Mixed Public Supply (19.5.66)

"The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses."

The fluoride content of the Bradwell water is less than 0.1 p.p.m., whereas that of the South Essex supply varies between 0.17 and 0.3 p.p.m.



Also the Bradwell supply exhibits slight corrosive tendencies due to its high content of free carbon dioxide. Both supplies are very hard in character.

### House Connections, etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District .....	3936
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply .....	3907
Estimated population so served .....	10789
Number of separate dwellings connected to main during the year .....	266
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe on mains supply .....	2
Estimated population so served .....	3
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped supply other than mains .....	27
Estimated population so served .....	88

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3"	...	...	...	...	3528 yards
4"	...	...	...	...	1079 yards
6"	...	...	...	...	1750 yards
9"	...	...	...	...	956 yards

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being brought into use.

### Water Consumption and future requirements

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following figures of the total water supplied from the Council's mains during the year:-

1.	Bradwell Springs:-				
	(a) To Silver End (estimated)	...	...	...	39,654,000 gallons
	(b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated).				71,559,000 gallons
2.	South Essex Water Company	...	...	...	126,295,000 gallons
3.	ex Braintree R.D.C. Main (Bradwell)	...	...		- gallons
					<hr/>
					237,508,000 gallons
					<hr/>

Average consumption per head per day:-

Domestic demand	...	...	...	...	...	36.09 gallons
Trade demand	...	...	...	...	...	26.08 gallons
Total consumption per head per day				...	...	62.17 gallons

The total consumption per head per day shows a rise of 3.3% on the previous year.

# DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 288 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December, 1966, were as follows:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	3832
Houses drained to septic tanks, cesspools, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Houses drained to ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses without drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							<hr/> 3936 <hr/>

## Sewer Systems

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year:-

### Foul Sewers:

6"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	756 yds.
7"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	363 yds.
9"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1618 yds.
12"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88 yds.
15"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55 yds.
21"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	924 yds.

### Surface Water Sewers:

6"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	696 yds.
7"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	520 yds.
9"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1731 yds.
12"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1072 yds.
15"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212 yds.
18"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	399 yds.
21"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	708 yds.
27"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	209 yds.
30"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63 yds.
33"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	251 yds.
36"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214 yds.
39"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87 yds.
42"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125 yds.

Except for one small section, all sewer systems gravitate to their respective outfalls.

In addition to the above, one major trunk sewer scheme, the Witham Brain Valley outfall sewer, was completed during the year. This new trunk sewer will supplement and relieve the existing low level system and also serve the greater part of the town development area.



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned and operated by the Council. These three serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works is owned and operated privately, for part of the year only: it was formerly a Ministry of Works plant serving an aerodrome (later a displaced persons camp), but it is now used to purify the waste effluent from a large pea vining plant.

### WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS

This plant has been described in previous reports. Designed for flow of 250,000 gallons per day it now receives upwards of double that amount in dry weather, with considerably higher flows during wet periods due to the larger part of the town of Witham being sewered on the combined system. To cope with this overload and the rapid expansion of the town by overspill development, a contract for extension of the plant to deal initially with dry weather flows up to 1,000,000 gallons per day was commenced during the year. The first section of the new plant should be ready for operation early in 1968 and the contract is due for completion by 1969. These extensions will deal with the sewage flow from a population of 17,500 though provision is being made now for sludge dewatering, pumping requirements and administration block adequate for further extensions of the plant to the ultimate development plan population of about 25,000.

As described in previous reports, the need to maintain a satisfactory standard of effluent from the present overloaded plant has been met very successfully by the provision of an effluent polishing lagoon. This lagoon, of rather less than three days' flow capacity, has been in use for six years and is still achieving radical improvement in effluent quality in spite of the ever increasing flow. It is hoped to be able to retain it for experimental use when the new plant is complete with a view to examining its potential as a permanent feature of the future disposal system.

No such happy solution has been found for sludge treatment and the department is still faced with difficulty in the drying and disposal of the large quantities of sludge now produced. The extension contract has to some extent aggravated this problem as some of the sludge drying beds have had to make way for new plant. The difficulty of sludge drying and the smell nuisance from it, led the Council to decide to incorporate mechanical dewatering in the new proposals.

### SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS

This plant, also overloaded, continues to cope reasonably satisfactorily with the flows from the Silver End drainage area but here again gradual development is reducing its purification potential and there are signs that it may be difficult in future to maintain a satisfactory standard. Because of certain inadequacies in the plant, the Council has for some time considered what should

be done to provide for the future in the area, and after consideration of all various alternatives has decided to adopt a scheme by which the Silver End sewage will be taken by a trunk sewer system to the enlarged Witham Sewage Works for treatment. Details of such a scheme were being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers at the end of the year.

Meanwhile until some improvement in plant or capacity can be provided, further development of this part of the district has had to cease, and a number of residential development schemes have accordingly had to be postponed.

#### RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS

This is a small plant serving the village area of Rivenhall Oak and Rivenhall End. The plant is operating at its designed capacity of 18,000 gallons per day, and occasionally shows signs that insufficient margin of capacity now remains for consistently high standards to be maintained. No extensive development is anticipated however, in the area served by the works and a certain amount of improvement in due course will no doubt restore its operation to full efficiency.

#### RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS

As stated above, this plant is now used for treatment of pea vining waste, and as the season for this is very short, it is out of use for the major part of the year. Prior to the commencement of the pea vining the plant is 'seeded' with sewage and sludge from the U.D.C. sewage works, to produce the biological conditions necessary to break down the very strong waste which is produced in the vining process.

#### SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Witham Sewage Works	64	3	67
Silver End Sewage Works	8	10	18
Rivenhall Sewage Works	2	1	3
	<u>74</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>88</u>

#### FARMLAND

Because of the Witham Sewage Works extension contract no cultivation of farmland was performed during 1966, the contract site being so restricted that the contractors needed access to the whole of the area in order to build the new works. On completion of this contract a number of open spaces will remain but these will be of such shape and size as probably not to warrant cultivation of farm crops. It may be possible however to bring some of the Council's land beyond the by-pass into cultivation in future years. It is of interest to note that during the 18 years' cultivation of this land by the Council a net profit of £1515. has accrued, and a very large quantity of cereals and root crops has been grown.



### DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES

Close control of the large quantities of industrial effluent discharged to sewer has been maintained continuously since 1949. In the majority of cases, following estimation of rates and strength of flow and agreement as to means of pre-treatment where required, the discharges are measured by recording instruments installed by the Council. These indicate the extent to which such discharges comply with the quantitative terms of the Council's agreements with the various companies, whilst periodic sampling for chemical analysis checks the observance of the qualitative conditions. Seven such agreements, in the terms allowed by the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937, as extended by the Public Health Act 1961, are now in force, and further agreements are under negotiation in respect of new factories on the Council's Industrial Estate.

Only minor difficulties were experienced during the year with discharges of unsatisfactory quality, and by reference to the management concerned remedial measures were instituted without delay in each case. The major problem dealt with during 1965 - that of odour production in the sewer system due to fermented malting waste - occurred intermittently during 1966. Arrangements were in hand at December for alterations in the balancing tanks and pumping facilities at the factory which, it is hoped, would prevent further trouble of this kind.

The types of trade effluents being discharged to the Council's sewers are as follows:-

Metal Processing: various:	3 main discharges.
Dairy wastes:	2 discharges.
Poultry Packing:	1 discharge.
Fruit Pulping and concentrate:	1 discharge.
Maltings:	1 discharge.
Etching and Engraving:	1 discharge.

25 samples of trade waste were submitted for laboratory analysis for routine trade waste examination or as spot samples for special examination.

An ancillary service provided by the Council to assist those industries which in pre-treatment of trade effluents produce large quantities of sludge, is a tanker disposal service for this material. This has operated for some 16 years and during 1966 an average of about 30,000 gallons of various industrial sludges were removed each week from local factories and disposed of at the Council's refuse tip. The cost is, of course, borne by the industries concerned.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and

the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

#### Collection

The weekly collection of house refuse from all parts of the Urban District was maintained during the year. The incentive bonus scheme, started in March 1965 to overcome difficulty in obtaining labour for this service, continued most successfully in its double object of attracting and keeping an adequate labour force, and coping with the additional collection work. A considerable increase in the number of premises to be served has been absorbed without increase in the number of collection staff and the average bonus per man rose during the year from £3. to £4.10s.0d. per week. Adjustment will, of course, have to be made as and when collection work becomes too great for the present staff and additional men have to be allocated to it, but this will not mean that the bonus will reduce to a less than attractive figure.

The second new collection venture of 1965, the paper sack system, was extended during 1966, by the end of which time 182 new houses were being serviced with this system. No conversions from bin collection have yet taken place, nor are they envisaged until the sack system has been applied to a large proportion of the new development now under construction. The experience to date indicates that the system fulfils the claims made for it in the matters of hygiene and ease of removal. Some householders, however, have found one paper sack, even of the larger  $3\frac{1}{4}$  cubic feet capacity, inadequate to hold a week's refuse. The problem of the increasing bulk of house refuse has also been noted in those areas served with dustbins, and this is particularly true of new estates on which facilities for burning refuse are not readily available. If, as seems likely, future households are going to produce a greater bulk of refuse than the standard dustbin can contain, this would appear to be a further argument in favour of the paper sack system.

#### Disposal

Controlled tipping was maintained on the Council's marshland site adjoining the sewage works and within the confluence of the rivers Blackwater and Brain. Here some 15 acres of marshland, acquired in 1963 to supplement other riverside land already in the Council's possession, will meet the requirements of the district for the first few years of the town development scheme. The ultimate population now proposed, however, will involve the provision of additional tipping space elsewhere, or an alternative method of disposal. Consideration is being given to the possibility of a plant, operating in conjunction with the new sewage works, in which de-watered sewage sludge could be mixed with pulverised refuse for ultimate disposal in land reclamation or as compost.



At present the levelling and covering of the tipped refuse is effected by means of a 1 cubic yard mechanical shovel digger, which is also used for excavation and covering work elsewhere.

### SALVAGE

It will be seen from the table below that a slight increase in material collected nevertheless brought in a somewhat lower return. Various differences in prices obtained and quantities of salvage recovered in recent years have not significantly altered the general pattern of recovery which has maintained its present levels, within fairly narrow limits, for some time past. Except for one small weekly round of the town shopping area, the salvage is collected mainly on the refuse rounds. This system is economic but to some extent self-limiting, and there is no doubt that much more salvage is available, though whether the return from it would justify the setting up of a separate collection service is doubtful. One fundamental advantage of the present scheme is the saving of the tip space which would otherwise be needed for the vast bulk of waste paper represented by the tonnage shown below. Figures for the financial years 1965-66 and 1966-67 are set out in the following table:-

	1965-66				1966-67			
	Weight			Value	Weight			Value
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£. s. d.	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£. s. d.
Waste Paper	213	10	0	2042.16.11.	217	13	0	1996. 7. 9.
Rags	5	5	3	89.13.11.	4	16	2½	69. 8. 6.
Sacking		7	1	4. 8. 9.		7	1	5. 6.11.
Scrap Iron	4	12	2	43.16. 4.	4	6	0	18.13. 6.
Non-Ferrous Metal	1	2	1	21. 7. 8.		9	3	50. 5. 4.
Miscellaneous		7	0	1.18.10.	-	-	-	- - -
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2204. 2. 5.</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>2140. 2. 0.</b>

During the year 1966-67 a bonus amounting to £214.0s.1d. was paid to the salvage staff.

### DERELICT VEHICLES

From the commencement of the Council's removal and disposal service in 1965, 16 vehicles of all kinds had been dealt with by the end of 1966. A small charge is made to the owner of the vehicle, where known, for removal to the disposal compound at the Council's refuse tip, but residents are offered free disposal facilities for old vehicles taken to the tip by the owners. At the compound the cars are periodically broken up and disposed of for scrap. Their registration numbers are notified to the local taxation authority.



CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicles during the year:-

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Loads</u>
Domestic emptyings (free service)	102	127
Rechargeable work	385	724
Trade Waste removal		1791

These figures represent an increase of more than 10% on the total for 1965. The 2642 loads represent over 3,000,000 gallons.

The trend indicated by the figures continues as in previous years; a gradual decrease in the free service cesspool emptying, due to more and more once isolated properties becoming connected to sewer systems, with a considerable increase in rechargeable cesspool work, mainly from residents on the rural boundaries of the Urban District. A large amount of rechargeable work is also done for one industrial concern operating in an area not served by public sewers. The increase in trade waste removal signified the upward trend in industrial activity which occurred during the year.

In addition to the above removal work the tanker vehicles carry out the cleansing of all district road gullies three times annually and also perform periodic sewer flushing. On a number of occasions assistance has been rendered to a neighbouring rural authority when in difficulty with sludge removal from small sewage plants.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A total of 2,358 visits and inspections were made during the year by the Department's Officers, as follows:-

Housing Acts:	Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	277
	Improvement Grant Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	221
Public Health Acts:	Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	133
	Drains and Sewers, Inspected/Tested	...	...	...	...	...	145
	Cesspools, Septic Tanks, pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	38
	Rodent and insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	74
	Noxious fumes, effluvia	...	...	...	...	...	26
	Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	17
	Animals	...	...	...	...	...	12
	Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	45
	Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	33
	Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	29
Food & Drugs Act:	Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	17
	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
	Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	19
	Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Poultry Packing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	242
	Ice-Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	34
	Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
	Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	8
	Other Foods (bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Chemical and Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	67
Sampling: Food:	Trade Effluents, Trade Sludges	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Surface and Other Water	...	...	...	...	...	26
Water:	Sewage, Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	...	...	88
	Water Supply, Inspection, Investigation	...	...	...	...	...	33
Other:	Shops Acts, Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	41
	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	68
	Schools	...	...	...	...	...	15
	Tents, vans and sheds, moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Refuse Tips, vehicles, collection	...	...	...	...	...	115
	Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	41
	Derelict Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	17
	Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	7
	Pet Animals	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	159
	Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Infectious Disease Prevention	...	...	...	...	...	34
	Council House Applications	...	...	...	...	...	17
	Noise	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	76

In addition a total of 398 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties, and 67 complaints were investigated.

Nuisances, etc. on Books, with Number of Notices Served  
Public Health Acts only

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st December 1965	...	...	...	...	26
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	54
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Notices complied with during the year	...	...	...	...	62
Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1966	...	...	...	...	18

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.Ps. etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective ceilings and walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective doors, windows and floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Inadequate means for disposal of surface water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective yard surface	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Absence/defective conditions of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Offensive accumulations and conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive smells/noise/fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infestations: Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Vermin and insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

During the year a total of 29 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. By the end of 1966 the number of outworkers on the register had dropped to nil, one major employer of this kind of labour going out of business and another changing to mechanical methods of performing the work previously put out to workers at home.



Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	2	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	57	74	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	13	19	5	Nil
	72	100	8	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	3	2	-	3	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	2	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	6	-	5	-

Continuous checks are maintained on factory noise emission, and the possibility of nuisance from smell and dust.



### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

For over 10 years the Council has maintained a small caravan site with space for 12 trailer caravans, equipped with the basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities. Electricity supply is available to each occupier. Consideration has been given to the replacement of this site by a larger modern one, but this scheme has had to be deferred because of cost and difficulty in finding a suitable location.

Two private sites within the district are occupied by members of the Showman's Guild during the permitted winter months and standards here are satisfactory. One further private site for six trailer caravans was opened under licence during the year by a local factory management desirous of importing key workers who needed temporary living accommodation until such time as houses could be provided for them. Also, as to be expected in an area of active development, numerous individual trailer caravans have been sited in the district for varying periods by personnel attached to building and civil engineering contractors carrying out development schemes.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Almost all the premises due for registration under the Act had been registered by the end of 1965, but not all had received their initial inspection. Follow-up work during 1966 eliminated a few of these as not in fact registrable and additional new registrations brought the total at December 1966 to the figure of 125. Follow-up visits and surveys were conducted at 36 of these premises. 13 contraventions of various requirements of the Act were rectified without necessity for formal action.

Remarks in the 1965 report concerning lack of notification of accidents apply equally to 1966. During the year only two accidents were reported, both of a relatively minor nature and warranting no special comment. Both occurred in catering establishments. There is no doubt that many more accidents do occur than are notified. Unfortunately it is only when a fatal or crippling one occurs that the importance of the protective provisions of this Act is realised by the management and personnel concerned.

### SHOPS ACTS

With the repeal of the sanitary and welfare provisions of the Shops Act 1950 on their replacement by the wider provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, no duties remain to the district council under this legislation. The Essex County Council continue to operate the unrepealed provisions of the Act as the Shops Act authority for this area. They are, of course, also responsible for enforcement of the hours of closing orders and the requirements for the employment of young persons, etc.

### RODENT AND OTHER PEST CONTROL

The Witham Council is a full member of the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee. The Committee's operatives undertake all disinfestation work in the district, including disinfestation of agricultural holdings under annual contract, which has been maintained by the joint local authorities ever since this service was relinquished by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The number of contracts with owners of Agricultural holdings for 1966 was 14. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Inspections made	164	14
Treatment visits	244	91
Infestations found: Mice	15	-
Rats (Major)	10	-
Rats (Minor)	139	14

No further surface disinfestation work was carried out with fluoracetamide poisoning during 1966, but this poison has been used for sewer baiting.

### Insect Pests

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Bees	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There were no licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District at 31st December, 1966.

Some small assistance with slaughterhouse duties was given to Dunmow Rural District Council during the year.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES

All registration and licensing of dairies and other milk premises, producers, dairymen and distributors is now the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at 31st December, 1966:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Dairies (3)	3	3	2
Dealers (5)	5	5	3

Samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory to be satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1959. The number of registrations at 31st December, 1966, was:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors only	47
Registered Premises	47

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

### Ice-Cream Sampling

Ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. Eight such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's Description	Fruit Ices	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading				Total
		I	II	III	IV	
Satisfactory	-	7	-	-	-	7
Passable	-	-	1	-	-	1
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	7	1	-	-	8

### Other Food Samples (for bacteriological examination)

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Sausages (all types)	2	-
Meat Pies	1	-
Sliced Meats	3	-
Flour confectionery	2	-
Synthetic cream	3	-
Milk	6	-
Dried Egg	2	-
Desiccated Coconut	2	-
Shrimps	4	3



The unsatisfactory samples of shrimps proved to be part of supplies found to have pursued an intricate journey from place to place since having left the fishing port of origin. With some difficulty all the local authorities concerned were contacted with the result that this unsatisfactory method of distribution was eliminated.

### Prosecutions

Four instances of foreign bodies in food were reported to the department during the year, two in respect of bread, one of butter and one of frozen fish. In one case proceedings were taken and fines and costs amounting to £13.3s.0d. were imposed.

### OTHER FOOD HYGIENE MATTERS

The number of premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

Residential Hotels	4
Restaurants	6
Factory and School Canteens	12
Manufacturing Butchers	3
Bakehouses	1
Fried Fish Shops	2
Retail Butchers' Shops	8
Supermarkets	2
Other Retail Food Shops	54
Retail Wet Fish Shops	2
Licensed Premises and Clubs	21
Fruit Packers	1
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Station	1

A number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 405 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory, but in a number of cases attention was called to defects in premises or equipment requiring to be rectified. No formal action in respect of those found to be inadequate.

### Poultry Packing

Daily inspections were carried out at the Poultry Packing Station of all birds rejected by plant staff for any degree of abnormal appearance in carcase or offal. Unfit birds are either wholly or partly condemned, as necessary, and the remainder passed.



### Condemnation of Food (other than Meat)

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 90 tons 3 cwt. 3 qrs. 23 lbs. of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1966. This quantity included very large numbers of broiler poultry sent to the local packing station on the complete clearance of large broiler production units in another district.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

#### Sampling

The sampling officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following table showing results of routine sampling in the Witham district during 1966.

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District
Baking Powder	1
Bread	1
Cake Mixtures	2
Cereal Products	2
Custard Powder	1
Cooking Salt	1
Corn Oil	1
Dried Vegetables	1
Flavouring Essences	1
Flour - Self Raising	1
Groundnut Oil	1
Marzipan	1
Table Salt	2
Tinned Meat	1
Vinegar	4
TOTAL	21

All samples were found to be satisfactory. No samples were taken from outside the urban district on premises of Wholesalers who supply shops within Witham urban district.

#### Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1966

Number of samples taken: 3

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The pattern of the concentration of products of combustion in the atmosphere of the town of Witham remained much the same as in previous years. Daily smoke and sulphur dioxide recordings are maintained and the records forwarded to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the National Survey. No significant degree of pollution has been noted, except during short periods of foggy conditions, when the build-up of contaminating materials in the air, though not critical, indicates clearly the need to prevent any increase in their general concentration.

Industrial furnaces and boiler installations are inspected under the Clean Air Act provisions, and chimney heights for new premises assessed in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum. It is both illogical and unfair that furnaces installed in public authority and Crown properties do not have to submit to this control.

Two contraventions of the Clean Air Act in respect of emission of dark smoke were recorded. Remedial action was taken by managements upon representation from the Department and no formal action was necessary. Ten notifications and applications for prior approval of furnace installations were received and investigated. All ten were granted. No instances of grit and dust emission from furnace installations occurred during the year. Seven plans were submitted showing proposed new chimneys and in each case a chimney height based on the Ministry's Memorandum was imposed by the Council. In one case this involved major alteration of the proposals. Two chimneys erected during the year were at premises outside the control of the Council under Section 10 of the Act.

No smoke control areas have been declared by the Council.

### NOISE

During the year complaints were received in respect of three alleged noise nuisances - two arising from industrial premises and one from a supermarket. All three complaints were confirmed and representations made to the respective managements for remedial action. This was forthcoming without recourse to formal powers.

All three conditions arose from the operation of machinery, by reason of inadequate buffering and sound insulation. In one case the noise was emitted in conjunction with abnormal vibration of the plant concerned, and was radically reduced when the vibration was eliminated

STAFF

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December, 1966, were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Poultry Inspector.  
Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Poultry Inspector.  
Secretary.  
Junior Clerical Assistant.  
Part-time General Assistant.  
Technical Assistant (post vacant at 31.12.66.)

Sewage Disposal: 1 Works Manager.  
1 Assistant Works Manager.  
1 Chargehand Attendant.  
2 Plant Operators.  
3 Sewage Works Labourers.  
1 Digger/Loader Driver.  
1 Tractor Driver.  
2 Cesspool/Gulley Emptying Drivers.

Cleansing: 2 Chargehands.  
2 Driver/Loaders.  
4 Refuse Loaders.  
1 Salvage Baler.

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 43 years.







